(b) if so, by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) to what extent it would help in providing assistance to the rural labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

National strategy for standardisation and quality system

*234. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments' attention has been drawn to a report published in the Hindustan Times of the 19th July, 1990 regarding the evolving of a national strategy for standardisation and quality system in the country; if so, how many Indian standards have so far been formulated in different technology areas; and

(b) what is the number of licences issued so far by the Bureau of Indian Standards?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The number of Indian Standards formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards, as on 31st July, 1990, in different areas is: 14863.

(b) The number of operative licences granted by Bureau of Indian Standards till the end of July, 1990 is: 11394.

White Paper on Child Labour

*235. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force of his Ministry has been assigned the job of preparing a White Paper on Child labour in different sections in the country and their working conditions; and

(b) if so, by when the White Paper is proposed to be prepared?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil palm plantation in Andhra Pradesh

*236. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to cultivate oil palm in Andhra Pradesh on a large scale and the amount sanctioned for the purpose; and

(b) what were the results of oil palm plantation in Kerala and how does it compare with the present project in A.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) A demonstration project on oil palm is being implemented since 1988-89 in an area of 1000 hectare in the districts of Krishna, East Godavari and West Godavari. An amount of Rs. 580.83 lakh has been sanctioned for five years of which Rs. 140.415 lakh is the share of Department of Bio-Technology (GOI) and Rs. 140.415 lakh of Government of Andhra Pradesh. The balance amount is proposed to be raised through institutional finance.

(b) The results of oil palm cultivation in Kerala have been found encouraging. The plantations in Kerala are raised on the Government land under rainfed conditions, while in Andhra Pradesh oil palm is being raised in the farmers' holdings with assured irrigation.

Works on pesticides residue

*237. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: